



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

ROBERT MORRIS  
CHAIR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
GOVERNOR'S TRAFFIC SAFETY  
ADVISORY COMMISSION  
LANSING

**(Approved)**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held April 20, 2007**  
**8:30 – 11:30 a.m.**  
**4000 Collins Road, Lansing, Michigan**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Robert Morris, Chair  
Michael Prince  
Anne Corgan  
Capt. Robert Powers  
Sheriff Al Byam  
Chief David Stamm  
John Friend  
Steven Puuri  
Dwight Sinila

**REPRESENTING**

Office of the Governor  
Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP)  
Department of State (MDOS)  
Department of State Police (MSP)  
Local Representative  
Local Representative  
Department of Transportation (MDOT)  
Local Representative  
Department of Education (MDOE)

**STAFF**

Deb Sonnenberg

**MEMBERS EXCUSED**

Pamela Hall  
Linda Scarpetta

Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)  
Department of Community Health (MDCH)

**GUESTS**

Bob Lariviere  
Gary Bubar  
Mouhamad Naboulsi  
Nicholas Skrzypczak  
Peter Broderick  
Carol Reagan  
Jon Reincke  
Kimberly Lariviere  
Brian Zimmerman  
Mark Bott  
Josh DeBruyn  
Matt Bolger  
Sydney Smith  
Tom Krycinski  
Sandy Liddle  
Anne Readett  
Debbie Savage  
Dianne Perukel  
Pietro Semifero  
Kathy Farnum  
Dan Vartanian  
Calvin Johnson  
Jeff Mitchell

**REPRESENTING**

AAA Michigan  
AAA Michigan  
Applied Computer Tech  
Luciol Systems  
Michigan Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA)  
MDOS  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MDOT  
MSP  
MSP  
MSU  
Office of Financial & Insurance Services  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
OHSP  
SEMCOG  
Van Buren Co. Rd. Commission

Robert Morris, Governor's Office • Michael Prince, Office of Highway Safety Planning • Linda Scarpetta, Community Health  
Dwight Sinila, Education • Anne Corgan, State • Capt. Robert Powers, State Police • John C. Friend, Transportation •  
Pamela Hall, Office of Services to the Aging • Sheriff Allen Byam, Local Representative  
Steven Puuri, Local Representative • Chief David Stamm, Local Representative

Chair Robert Morris called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. A Roll Call of the GTSAC members was taken establishing a quorum was present.

#### **Public Comment/Announcement Items**

Mr. Mouhamad Naboulsi provided an update on cell phone designs developed for driving safety.

#### **GTSAC Meeting Minutes**

Chair Morris entertained a motion for approval of the minutes of the GTSAC meeting of February 23, 2007, with noted corrections identified by Mr. Puuri. Moved by Chief Stamm, seconded by Anne Corgan. Motion carried.

#### **Chair's Reports/Updates – Robert Morris**

Mr. Morris commented that the Michigan Traffic Safety Summit held in March was outstanding. He acknowledged the attendance included a great number of Commissioners and stakeholders.

Mr. Morris commented on a SEMCOG focus session he attended last month where the issue was senior mobility. The session brought forth the relationship between what GTSAC does and the services of public transit and other services.

Mr. Eric Smith, Macomb County Prosecutor, was unable to attend the GTSAC Awards luncheon in March so Mr. Morris and Mr. Dave Wallace from Prosecuting Attorneys Association, will be traveling to Macomb County to present Mr. Smith with his award next week.

#### **GTSAC Commissioner Updates**

##### **➤ Department of Community Health (MDCH) –Heather Hockanson for Linda Scarpetta**

Ms. Heather Hockanson reported on the First United Nation's Global Road Safety Week, April 23-29, 2007, that highlights the issue of road traffic safety among our nation's youth. This International event will focus on increasing awareness about road traffic safety among youth and will highlight risk and prevention information. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) requested MDCH to notify its partners that this event is taking place. The CDC's part in this effort will focus on raising the awareness of the important role that parents play in keeping their teen driver safe. The CDC has developed some tools that are available on their Web site.

MDCH is working with University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) on a proposal to obtain funding for their Teen Safety Belt Intervention program. Their goal is to work with Lansing area schools to have the teens themselves develop a safety belt intervention. MDCH would pilot-test the intervention in Lansing for two years and possibility conduct a safety belt mobilization.

The biggest issue facing MDCH, as with other departments, is the lack of funding. All of their programs are federally funded. Many programs are being cancelled due to the lack of upfront state funds which are reimbursed by the federal grants.

##### **➤ Department of Education (MDOE) – Dwight Sinila**

The MDOE has several new and ongoing initiatives in the area of pupil transportation safety. The Training Agency Management Association of Michigan (TAMAM) is a group of 15 coordinators who write and deliver the bus driver safety curriculum to the 18,000 drivers in Michigan. MDOE has a statutory responsibility to work with this group and approve the curriculum.

Another initiative MDOE is involved with is working with other agencies (AAA, MSP, etc.) to develop and update the Michigan School Crossing Guards Curriculum.

MDOE is finalizing their position on school bus seat belts. Much work and agency coordination has gone into the development of the position which will soon be published.

➤ **Department of State (DOS) – Anne Corgan**

Last week, Secretary of State Land blitzed the state on what is called “Buddy Week” which brings attention to and promotes organ donation. Her efforts have resulted in an increase of individuals signing up for the donation program. In recognition, the licenses of these individuals are adorned with a red heart.

The DOS hopes to use the same visibility the Secretary can provide in the upcoming Motorcycle Safety Awareness Campaign which kicks off on May 1 at 10 a.m., behind the Capitol. Focus of this press conference will be families who ride. Their goal is to extend this campaign into the summer months not just a one time event. Safe riding brochures will be available at branch offices and at motorcycle dealerships. MDOT has posted motorcycle safety reminders on 60 plus highway message boards in the Detroit and Grand Rapids metropolitan areas. Internally, DOS has enhanced their motorcycle Web site to make it more user-friendly. Soon DOS will be blitzing various newsletters and newspapers across the state with motorcycle safety columns and messages. They are also looking at ways to use their mobile branch offices to promote motorcycle endorsements.

DOS is partnering with AAA to promote their Carfit events this summer. Brochures will be available in branch offices and messages possibly airing on the privately paid for Plasma screens in branch offices.

Also working with AAA on an effort to fund the new Driver Education Curriculum that will be implemented throughout the state later this year. This curriculum will provide consistency in teaching by driver education providers throughout the state.

➤ **Department of State Police (MSP) – Capt. Robert Powers**

Mr. Morris introduced and welcomed Capt. Robert Powers as the newly appointed Commissioner representing the Department of State Police. Captain Powers expressed his pleasure to be serving on this Commission and looks forward to working with everyone and the opportunities to help move traffic safety ahead in Michigan.

Captain Powers reported on the recent State Police organization realignment whereby one change was merging the Motor Carrier Division, which is responsible for commercial vehicle enforcement and school bus safety programs, with the Traffic Services Section which was previously housed under the Field Operations Division. This merge created the Traffic Safety Division. The placement of the department's traffic safety enforcement functions under one command was done to create some efficiencies and synergies and eliminate duplication of efforts. Overall, the end result will raise the profile of traffic safety within the Department of State Police to an even higher level.

➤ **Department of Transportation (MDOT) – John Friend**

The summer construction season has begun. MDOT anticipates a record construction program this year. MDOT will be working hard to minimize delay through traffic zones throughout the summer and hopes motorists will endure MDOT's efforts for better roads. Future projects are in question due to declining funding. Funding is also a major issue at the federal level since the Federal Highway Trust Fund has been spent down. It will be interesting to see where infrastructure investments for the nation and Michigan head. Orange barrels will be out there. Mr. Friend asked for everyone's assistance to remind folks to have patience and to drive the work zones safely.

➤ **Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) – Pamela Hall (Absent)**

No Report

➤ **Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) – Michael Prince**

Mr. Prince reported that the 2006 crash data has been finalized. Traffic-related injuries were down in 2006 (9%) a pretty significant drop. Fatalities were down 4 percent, and total crashes were down almost 10 percent. All of the work everyone in the room and across the state is obviously paying off. The bad news is, for the first time in 6 years alcohol/drug-involved traffic deaths rose almost 8 percent. That represents over 40 percent of all traffic deaths, which is very concerning.

Mr. Prince commented that a shift in seat belt focus seems to be occurring in some states, particularly the higher belt-use states, whereby, they are trying to incorporate more drunk driving programs. Michigan has been in the midst of making this shift over the last year. These statistics make it even more important that we fully support the efforts of MADD Michigan and law enforcement, etc., in addressing this issue. Michigan has not experienced an increase this high in more than 10 years.

In follow-up to comments made regarding the Traffic Safety Summit that took place in March, 454 participants, speakers, and exhibitors took part in the event, nearly 100 more than in 2006. Evaluations for the conference supported the expanded format. OHSP is working on plans for the 2008 Summit; however, some of those plans are contingent on the budget situation. OHSP is not signing contracts with facilities pending approval to move forward with some of the conferences and events they have sponsored in the past.

OHSP is in the midst of planning for the Click It or Ticket mobilization scheduled May 21 through June 3. Based upon the crash data, the focus group continues to be young male pick-up truck drivers ages 21-34. Part of OHSP's outreach strategy includes working with sporting good stores, auto parts dealers, hardware stores, and fast-food restaurants around the state to get the message out about the enforcement that will be taking place. OHSP has done a lot of research on this issue and worked with NHTSA on it and have determined that the target group tends to patronize those locations.

Mr. Prince congratulated AAA for spearheading Traffic Safety Committees around the state. The new Lakeshore Committee became operational last month and was well-attended.

On behalf of Dr. Jackie El-Sayed, chair of the Michigan Truck Safety Commission (MTSC), Mr. Prince announced the appointment of James Scalici to the Commission representing the Michigan State Transportation Commission. The issue of MTSC funding support for the MSP Motor Carrier Division (now Traffic Safety Division) has somewhat been resolved. Captain Powers reported that some federal funds were obtained and that the layoff of motor carrier enforcement officers was averted. The last report received indicated the new Unified Carrier Registration System (UCRS) should be operational in July.

On behalf of Ms. Kay Shabazz of "Reaching Out Against Road Rage" (R.O.A.R.R.), Mr. Prince announced that July 15-21, 2007, is Road Rage Awareness Week. Ms. Shabazz would appreciate and encourages everyone's help to promote this endeavor.

Mr. Prince provided a copy of the 2006 OHSP Annual Evaluation Report to all Commissioners and encouraged all to review the document.

➤ **Local Representation – Steven Puuri**

Mr. Puuri expressed that the expectations of the new speed defining law differ from the reality of what the public wants at least at the local level. Mr. Puuri provided an example whereby the citizens of a city are demanding their City Council lower the speed limit on a particular stretch of road; however, the road is under the jurisdiction of the county road commission which has determined the speed of the road by utilizing the new speed defining factors. Mr. Puuri expressed his appreciation to F/Lt. Thad Peterson and Spl. Lt. Gary Megge of the MSP for their assistance with this issue.

Most pressing item for the County Road Commissions is funding. They have been very active to educate citizens and local officials on what can be expected if funding issues are not addressed soon. Most county construction projects are in jeopardy due to funding shortfalls. The County Road Commissions are preparing contingency plans to downsize projects for FY08 to stay within funding levels. He believes safety improvements scheduled will most likely be items put aside.

➤ **Local Representation – Chief David Stamm (MACP)**

Chief Stamm reported that MACP is working on arrangements for their summer conference. He will be working with them to include traffic safety issues. He will also be working with them on their winter conference agenda and hopes to have them move the traffic safety issues from Friday to an earlier day of the conference to increase emphasis.

Chief Stamm attended the Speed Management Workshop in Chicago recently and was impressed with the MDOT networking. One item in particular is that MDOT and SEMCOG hosted a Road Safety Audit (RSA) program. He would like to see more traffic safety partners involved in it for law enforcement engineering, etc. He offered to provide his assistance to get this out to the local municipalities to help pull efforts together for the safety of the public.

➤ **Local Representation – Sheriff Al Byam (MSA)**

Sheriff Byam also attended the Speed Management Workshop in Chicago. He concurred with Chief Stamm that the Road Safety Audits was of great interest to the Michigan representatives. The idea of raising speed limits in some cases to curb traffic fatalities was a bit foreign to many other state representatives. The Michigan representatives drafted an Action Plan and once finalized will be presented to the GTSAC.

Mr. Morris added that the State Police did a presentation on speed limits to the Senate Transportation Committee recently which appeared to be quite enlightening to the legislators. Mr. Morris questioned if a condensed version could be presented at a future GTSAC meeting. Captain Powers will address his staff on this possibility.

Debbie Savage of the Office of Highway Safety Planning was also a representative at the Speed Management Workshop and reported that one of the major issues the Michigan representatives concurred with was that speed is a major problem. Several projects are underway with Wayne State University to look at some of the counties where speed has truly been identified as a traffic safety issue and do some in-depth reviews. The approach would be to visit the communities to talk about speed problems and act as resources to share remedies identified by other areas. This would include addressing an array of possible crash factors not just speed, i.e. engineering. Michigan could benefit building on other states' experiences rather than starting from scratch.

**Legislative Report – Sgt. Matt Bolger**

Sgt. Matt Bolger provided a summary report of the most current legislation concerning traffic safety.

**Action Team Reports**

➤ **Occupant Protection – Heather Hockanson**

Ms. Hockanson reported on the following activities that MDCH is pursuing:

- Working with local agencies and appropriate professional and advocacy organizations such as the Safe Kids Michigan Coalition to strengthen existing legislation to include booster age children and remove exemptions that compromise Child Passenger Safety (CPS).
- Coordinating with the OHSP and organizations that represent law enforcement agencies to develop and deliver CPS training to law enforcement members. MDCH would like to see an increase in enforcement of occupant protection laws not just during special campaigns.
- Partnering with state and local agencies to coordinate development and facilitate implementation of CPS training including the Standardized CPS Technician Certification Course in addition to the various specialty curricula.
- OHSP, partnering with state and local agencies to develop a stand-alone, centralized, easy to remember, occupant protection/CPS Web site where the public can access timely, accurate, and consistent information on restraint laws and correct use of restraint systems, technical information and training opportunities, etc.
- Developing a model hospital car seat discharge policy and education programs for parents in cooperation with hospital, family service, and health care provider organizations.
- The University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute (UMTRI) will be repeating a statewide observation study of booster seat use for Michigan children ages 4-8 this summer. The previous study conducted in 2004 indicated a low use rate.
- If a booster seat law is in place in Michigan by July 1, Michigan could get up to 1 million federal dollars from NHTSA for CPS education and seat purchases for local communities.
- The MDCH Safe Kids Coalition is preparing an application for \$25,000 for buckle-up funds from GM. Those funds are dedicated solely to child passenger safety activities.

➤ **Young Drivers – Gary Bubar**

Mr. Bubar acknowledged Ms. Dianne Perukel of the OHSP staff for her efforts with AAA programs.

Mr. Bubar reported that funding for continuing researches probably are not forthcoming in the near future. AAA is continuing to seek public and private partnerships to assist in their projects/activities.

He visited the Center for Disease Control (CDC) last year as part of a first-look at recognizing young driver's injuries and deaths as a health issue. UMTRI is getting some funding through the CDC to look at Michigan's data. Once data is released by CDC, Mr. Bubar will present the findings to the GTSAC.

Looking at recent crashes in young drivers, AAA is continuing to work with educators on what they can do in the area of education. Research still does not support drivers' education on its own as being a causal factor in recent crashes.

AAA's ticket-book size card that provides information on driver licensing levels, 6.5 offences, etc., that law enforcement may experience with younger drivers, is being printed and will be available soon.

AAA recognizes a huge issue as being the expanded role that parents play in educating their young drivers. AAA will concentrate the next few years looking at the parent component and ways of addressing the issue.

Next week, the Driver and Traffic Safety Educators Association conference is being held. This group spearheads education in our state through private and public schools along with the Department of State.

➤ **Driver Behavior – “Wake Up Michigan” Symposium – Dan Vartanian, OHSP**

Mr. Vartanian, speaking on behalf of the GTSAC Driver Behavior Action Team, announced the Team's development of a Traffic Safety Symposium on Drowsy Driving. The theme is “Wake Up Michigan.” The Team wishes the GTSAC endorsement of the symposium. The endorsement sought consists of permission to use the GTSAC logo in the marketing of the event. The symposium is fully-funded through corporate contributions. The \$40 participant fee will go to offset other costs associated with the conference. It is hoped that funding will be available to provide scholarships for persons not able to cover the registration costs.

Mr. Puuri motioned to endorse the Wake Up Michigan Symposium by allowing the use of the GTSAC logo in the marketing of the event. Captain Powers supported. Motion carried.

**State Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) Implementation – John Friend, MDOT & Mike Prince, OHSP**

Mr. Friend and Mr. Prince both provided PowerPoint presentations of how their respective agencies utilize the SHSP in their overall planning and funding process/decisions and provided examples of projects/funding that are directly related to the SHSP and the Action Team's input and recommendations. A copy of the presentations may be obtained by contacting the OHSP office at 517-333-5301.

**2006 Crash Data Update – Pietro Semifero, OHSP**

Mr. Semifero provided a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the 2006 Crash Data received to date. He indicated this report is a first-pass through the data and is not a complete analysis of all crash-involved factors. Mr. Semifero also indicated the numbers may vary due to database updates and differences in queries. Further detail will be available in the future, both in standard analyses and on specific issues.

**Luciol Systems Advanced Safety Delineation – Nicolas Skrzypczak**

Mr. Skrzypczak provided a brief introduction about Luciol Systems innovative safety delineation and his company's progress in the state of Michigan.

**2007 Peer Exchange on Implementing Strategic Highway Safety Plans – Kathy Farnum - OHSP**

Ms. Farnum reported on the Peer Exchange meeting (sponsored by AASHTO and GHSA) she attended in February. This meeting provided an opportunity for representatives from all states to share Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) strategies and best practices and get questions answered. Michigan is fortunate to have a great crash data system that puts it ahead in SHSP planning and implementation.

To maintain momentum for implementation of the SHSP, beginning with today's GTSAC meeting, GTSAC agency representatives will be presenting how their agency uses the SHSP and the Action Teams' plans/work in shaping Michigan's activities and funding decisions. Mr. John Friend of MDOT and Mr. Mike Prince of OHSP provided their agency reports today. The GTSAC/Action Team Web site has been redesigned to provide each Action Team's Implementation Plan, meeting notes, and status updates, etc.

**Other Business**

None

**GTSAC Administrative Items**

Handout – Updated Commissioner Roster

Handout – 2006 OHSP Annual Evaluation Report

**Meeting Adjourned at 11:35 a.m.**

**2007 Meeting Schedule**

All meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. in the Collins Centre Presentation room unless stated otherwise.

August 24, 2007

October 26, 2007

December 14, 2007